

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A method for presenting address information to accessing parties in a shared directory environment, the method ~~comprising the steps of:~~

detecting a query from at least one entity over a data network seeking a first view of at least one address entry in a shared directory;

retrieving identification information for the at least one entity, wherein the identification information includes hierarchal information associated with the at least one entity;

denying access to the first view and, based on the hierarchal information, searching the shared directory to identify all of the at least one address entries in the directory which include the hierarchal information; and

presenting to the at least one entity initiating the query only all of the identified at least one address entries in a second view.

9. (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the shared directory is configurable for supporting emessaging.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the at least one entry include the identification information for at least one of: a person and a group.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the hierarchal information includes at least one of: company name and company location.

12-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the first view is a listing of all entries in the directory and the second view is a copy of the listing with modified selection criteria.

15. (Currently amended) A system for providing limited access to address entries in a directory in a shared environment, the system comprising;

a network server configured for receiving and processing queries from entities for accessing directory information over at least one data network and performing functions with regards to accessing associated directories;

a shared directory in communication with the server which includes a plurality of address entries, each of the address entries including hierarchal information in an additional field, the hierarchal information being associated with at least one entity of the entities having access to the shared directory; and

the network server further configured to search the shared directory and, based on the queries, generate a first and at least one additional view of the at least one address entry, wherein access to the first view is restricted and the at least one additional view is a subset of the first view, wherein the at least one additional view provides access to the at least one entity to only those of the plurality of address entries in the first view which include the hierarchal information.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the data network is the internet and the server is configured to communicate with web browsers.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15 wherein the server and directory are configured to provide hosted messaging services for a plurality of third parties.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the first view comprises a listing of all entries and the at least one additional view is a copy of the listing of all entries with the modified selection criteria.

20. (Original) The system of claim 15 wherein the fields are provided for at least one

of: people entries and group entries in the directory.